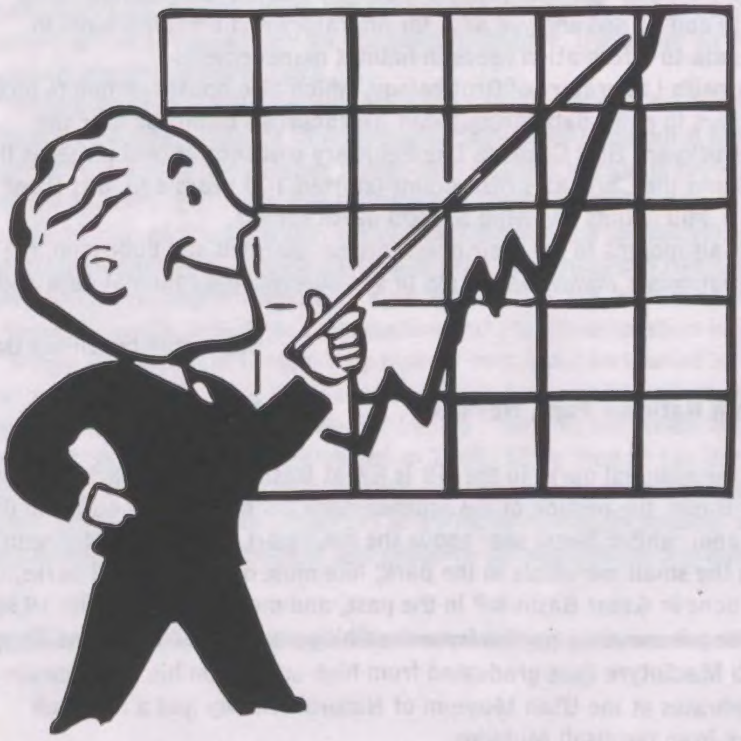
The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
August 11, 2000



ATTENDANCE TOPS 1,500,000!

Museum meets 1999 mark in only seven months!

FIELD NOTES
Week of August 14

Staff/Volunteer Events

Museum Campus Operations Team
- Monday, 3 p.m., Field Museum

Tae Bo Class
- Cancelled

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m. , Classroom A
- Thursday, 5 p.m. , Classroom A

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m., Special Events

Hmm ... good you have done ... the Force with you is strong.

Public/Campus Events

Star Wars: The Magic of Myth
- Exhibit continues

Field Nights
- Thursday, 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Chicago Ping Pong Festival 2000 continues (North Entrance lobby)
- Thursday, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

"When will we know what birds know?" (Carl Sandburg)

For more than a decade, amateur birdwatchers have amassed a rich data bank of the distribution and abundance of bird species for the Chicago region. But this information has been largely inaccessible for conservation decisions because of unstandardized field protocols and the daunting task of digitizing so many data.

Last week, Steve Kelling of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology met with Field Museum staff and Chicago Wilderness members, including the Bird Conservation Network (BCN), to highlight features of BirdSource (/www.birdsource.org)—a partnership between the Cornell Lab and the National Audubon Society. Through The Field Museum, BirdSource is expanding the partnership to *Chicago Wilderness*.

ECP, the Bird Conservation Network, and BirdSource are collaborating to develop an interactive data entry program for citizen scientists in Chicago Wilderness. ECP ornithologist **Doug Stotz** is spearheading "Bird Monitoring for Conservation," a program to collect and analyze data for migratory and breeding birds in Chicago Wilderness, and to connect those data to information needs in habitat management.

Copies of the data will be stored at Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology, which also houses complete records from a variety of programs that use volunteers to enter data directly into BirdSource's database over the Internet. These projects include the Great Backyard Bird Count (a late February snapshot of bird patterns that received 65,000 checklists last year alone) and the Christmas Bird Count (started 100 years ago, this is the world's oldest and largest bird count, with 1,700 counts involving 50,000 participants).

While birdwatchers previously had to wait months to see their observations analyzed and published, the new program gives citizen scientists and conservationists *immediate* access to site-specific and regional data and to analyses of trends.

Submitted by Gillian Darlow

Notes on a mammal survey of Great Basin National Park, Nevada

One of the most isolated and driest of the national parks in the US is Great Basin National Park, in east-central Nevada. It is named for the Great Basin, the portion of the southwestern US that has no outlet to the sea; scattered mountain ranges capped by cool conifer forest soar above the hot desert. I have recently returned from several weeks of field work surveying the small mammals in the park; like most of the national parks, only scattered biological inventories have been done in Great Basin NP in the past, and most of those in the 1930s. The field crew included **Danny Balete** (visiting for several months from the Philippines), **Joe Walsh** and **Terry Horton** from Northwestern University, **Rob MacIntyre** (just graduated from high school, on his third season with this project), **Eric Rickart** (curator of vertebrates at the Utah Museum of Natural History and a research associate here in Zoology), and two staffers from the Utah Museum.

We trapped from scorching desert at the base of the nearby valley to over 11,000 feet on Wheeler Peak (the second highest mountain in the Great Basin at over 13,000 feet). We documented over 20 species in the park, including information on elevational range, habitat requirements, and relative abundance. Our greatest success was capturing a dwarf shrew (Sorex tenellus) that had never before been documented within over 200 miles of the area; this is one of the tiniest mammals in North America, not much longer than a match-stick and weighing less than a penny. Our results will contribute to our continuing study of diversity patterns of mammals in the Southwest, but will also help the park document any changes in the future, and will help to justify expansion of the park to include more of the fragile low-elevation desert lands, nearly all of which are public lands currently badly over-grazed by cattle.

Submitted by Larry Heaney

FLOYD SWINK

18 May 1921 — 1 August 2000

Floyd Swink, the man who had all the plants of Chicagoland in his head, who led innumerable field trips to help us understand our fauna and flora, and who authored important texts in plant identification, died in his sleep at the age of 79 on August 1.

Nothing beats having a "local expert" to help others identify and classify the living things that comprise our local natural environment. These are the people who know the local plants and animals, and know them well. They know where to find a rare species or when the seeds of a prairie plant will be ready for gathering. These are the people who tell you what you are looking at when you found something new and mysterious. Unraveling these kinds of questions without such assistance can be long and tedious—or almost hopeless. We in Chicago have been blessed with such an "expert" in the person of Floyd Swink. Floyd's prodigious memory and perceptive eye, together with his always cheerful and helpful attitude, made him an indispensable resource for information regarding the Chicagoland flora.

Floyd's crowning achievement, his 921-page *Plants of the Chicago Region* (written together with Gerould Wilhelm), is a unique source of information. Keys help distinguish families, genera and species. Each species is provided with a long list of other plants with which it is usually found; a feature found in few other books (perhaps because only Floyd had the memory bank capable of storing so much information). One of the most unusual aspects of this book was the authors' assigning a special value to each species—a value that would be useful in assessing how much a particular prairie or woodland had changed over time. These species values (conservatism values) allows one to evaluate an area and, over the years, monitor changes; a terrific technique for those who work in habitat preservation and prairie restoration in the Chicago area.

Floyd Swink was never formally trained in Botany; he learned by his own intensive efforts, by spending "free time" poring over plant specimens in The Field Museum's herbarium, and by working closely with Museum curator Julian Steyermark during the 1950's. Floyd hit full stride, botanically speaking, when he became taxonomist for the Morton Arboretum in 1960. Since then he has been an invaluable resource for the entire community. His many accomplishments were recognized formally when he was given an honorary doctoral degree by Western Illinois University in 1995. With Floyd's passing, we have lost one of our most significant allies in the effort to understand and preserve our region's natural environment.

William Burger

Scientists meet to establish conservation priorities for the Northern Andes

The World Wild Life Fund recently hosted an international workshop (24-26 July 2000) in Bogotá, Colombia to establish a vision for "Conservation of Biodiversity for the Northern Andes." The meetings gathered 85 scientists and conservationists representing 53 institutions from Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Perú, Great Britain, and the United States. Experts in broad taxonomic groups including birds, mammals, herps, invertebrates, and flowering plants worked to identify important centers of biodiversity and prioritize protection efforts.

The Field Museum was represented in the workshop by Michael Dillon, curator in the botany department. Conclusions and recommendations will be published later this year. Initial efforts attempted to target regions with a wide variety of natural communities which could support ongoing ecological and evolutionary processes and sustain viable populations of sufficient size to permit them to withstand periodic perturbations and long-term climate changes.

KAFFEEKLATSCH MEETING • AUGUST 2000

Marilyn Martinson, Human Resources:

- Special Events only has 20 event days left for this year. If you have booked an event for an evening and are not using the date, please contact Special Events immediately to free up that date for someone else.
- Finance is forming a "test" group to test a new online purchase requisition process.
- Lou French in Facilities Planning & Operations is forming a "Building and Grounds 2000 Group". The purpose of this group is to evaluate how the current level of activity/attendance is impacting the building and to create response plans.
- The Stores have grossed approximately $5.7 million this year to date! WOW! There will soon be a new kid's Sue sticker book available in the Stores along with a book about Sue Hendrickson.
- The Museum is now selling general admission tickets though Ticketmaster. Tell a friend.
- The tent located on the Southwest terrace has been put up for public floor staff to eat their lunch. This tent is to provide for those staff having limited lunch and break times and who are being relieved from their assigned areas.

Maria Burns, Human Resources:

- The Human Resources department is planning a staff and volunteer family overnight for September 15, 2000. Look for more details in the August 11th Natural News.

Maria Stevens, Development:

- Women's Board is still working on events surrounding Kremlin Gold.
  Question: Can we look into putting a "Classifieds" section on our Intranet for staff/volunteer use? These classifieds would be for "For Sale" things, or new a roommate, etc.
  Response: Sounds great! The human resources department will see what we can create.

Nancy DeDakis, General Counsel:

- The second edition of the Trustee Directory has been put on delay until further notice.

Julie Baker, Finance: *(First meeting, Welcome)*

- Working with the recycling sub-committee to help educate staff on how important recycling is for this institution and on the material that can be recycled. Since Tony Laczkowski in Housekeeping took over the responsibility of recycling, we have increased our recycling 33%. Isn't that great!
- We will soon be going though another mass order for stationery. The icon will be gone from the second page of the stationery, since most staff are confused about where it is supposed to go. Stationery costs will be coming out of the department's budgets for next year.
- We are trying to make a decision about changing the business cards.

Lorraine Petkus, Finance:

- Finance is now located in Hall 3 behind Corner Bakery. If you cannot find someone when you come up to see us, please ask the first person you come to and have them direct you.

Kaffeeklatsch serves as an advisory group to the Administration about issues of a Museum-wide nature. Topics for discussion are generated by the Chair or any Kaffeeklatsch member. Membership is composed of 14 rotating representatives and a representative of the Personnel Committee. Members are selected from each administrative area. Each member serves a term of two years. If you have any suggestions/comments, please submit them in the suggestion box in the Mail Room.

PROTECTION SERVICES

Just pretend you're in England, and stay to the left

As you are probably already aware, we have switched the configuration of the IN and OUT card reader at the Museum's South Door. This change was made to mirror the way the visitors are entering and exiting (in to the left, out to the right). Hopefully this will flow better for staff trying to swipe in and out—lately it has been like salmon swimming upstream with all the crowds. Thanks to all for doing a great job in using your ID badges!

Fall 2000 *The Morton Arboretum's*
NATURALIST CERTIFICATE PROGRAM
At The Field Museum

Journey into the wilderness of Illinois with The Morton Arboretum, The Field Museum and The Chicago Botanic Garden. Based on the Arboretum's successful program, field-oriented classes in ecology, botany, zoology, geology and interpretation guide the beginning and more advanced naturalist through an integrated program in nature study. **Participants are welcome to register for courses based on general interest; no prior course work is required.** For those wishing to pursue a certificate, 13-15 courses must be completed. Registration for these classes takes place at The Field Museum. You can register by calling (312) 665-7400; a limited number of need-based scholarships are available. Find out about the Naturalist Certificate Programs offered at The Morton Arboretum by calling (630) 719-2468 and the Chicago Botanic Garden at (847) 835-8261. Please note: transportation to off-site class locations is on your own.

LOOKING AT THE LIVES OF SPIDERS
Frank Pascoe, Department of Natural Sciences, University of St. Francis
This class will focus on common spiders of our area, their habitat, life histories, feeding behavior, reproduction and ecology. Evening lectures at the Field Museum will introduce you to spider biology using presentations and video. Saturday field labs at the University of St. Francis in Joliet will include indoor microscope lab sessions to practice identifying spiders to the family level (wolf spiders, jumping spiders, orb weavers, etc.), and outdoor observations of spiders in their natural habitat.
Naturalist Certificate Enrichment.
Meets at The Field Museum: Fridays, September 8 & 15; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Meets at the Site: Saturdays, September 9 & 16; 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(4 sessions)
$125 ($105 members)

FIELD ECOLOGY: FALL
Liane Cochrane-Stafina, Department of Biology, St. Xavier University
Growth and reproduction of plants as well as animal behavior are the focus of fall Field Ecology. Topics include seed dispersal, feeding behaviors of small mammals, animal-plant interactions and decomposing organisms and soil conditions. Be prepared to be outdoors most of the time during Sunday field labs. The recommended text, Ecology and Field Biology by R. L. Smith, will be for sale the first class session.
Naturalist Certificate Requirement, both tracks.
Meets at The Field Museum: Wednesdays, September 20 & October 11; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Meets at the Site: Sundays, September 24 & October 15; 9:00 - 1:00 p.m.
(4 sessions)
$125 ($105)

SEED COLLECTING WORKSHOP
Jane and John Balaban, Site Stewards, Volunteer Stewardship Network
Learn the essentials of successful, as well as ethical, seed collecting.
This all-day workshop will cover collection techniques, appropriate
times for collecting different species, seed preparation, storage, and
methods for overcoming dormancy. Morning field component will meet at a North Branch Restoration site. Afternoon indoor discussion/lecture will be held at North Park Village Nature Center. Maps will be sent upon registration. Limit 20.
Naturalist Certificate Enrichment.
Meets at the Site: Saturday, September 23; 9:00 - 4:00 p.m.
(one session)
$ 65 ($ 55 members)

NATURE CONNECTIONS
David Stokes, Schlitz Audubon Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
This hands-on workshop examines techniques for interpreting nature for children. You will consider: songs, stories, and riddles; multi-sensory activities; philosophy of interpretation; questioning for discovery; using humor; introductions and summaries; program materials and resources; what to do when things don't go as planned. *Reaching for Connections* by David Stokes, included with the class, will serve as workshop notes. Friday and Saturday field site will be North Park Village Nature Center in Chicago.
Naturalist Certificate Requirement, Interpretive track.
Meets at the site: Friday, October 6; 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 7; 9:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Meets at The Field Museum: Sunday, October 8; 9:00 – 2:00 p.m.
(3 sessions)
$ 155 ($ 125 members)

READING THE LANDSCAPE OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
Raymond Wiggers, Geologist and Author
Ancient oceans, glaciers, plants, animals and human beings have had a lasting effect on the landscapes and ecosystems of northeastern Illinois. Put on your hiking boots and gear up for this energetic and slightly strenuous course, which will help you develop skills to "read the landscape" by exploring Illinois' geology, soils, climate and rocks. Dress for the weather, as field trips will be to regional natural areas. Transportation to off-site locations is on your own. The required text is *Geology Underfoot in Illinois* by Raymond Wiggers and will be for sale the first class session.
Naturalist Certificate Enrichment.
Meets at The Field Museum: Thursdays, October 26 & November 2; 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Meets at the Site: Sundays, October 29 & November 5; 1: 00 – 4:00 p.m.
(4 sessions)
$130 ($ 110 members)

NCP Courses at The Morton Arboretum
Call (630) 719-2468 for more information.

NCP Courses at the Chicago Botanic Garden
Call (847) 835-8261 for more information.

FALL 2000:
Introduction to Fresh Water Mussel Identification and Ecology
Phytogeography of the Midwest
Seed Collecting Workshop
Methods in Restoration Ecology: Tallgrass Prairies
Field Ecology: Fall

GREEN SHEET UPDATE

GREEN SHEET INFORMATION SITE: http://intranet1/gsguidelines

- **Star Wars Exhibit Reservation Form**

Star Wars Exhibit reservations can be made by submitting this form to the Special Events department.

- **Audio-Visual Rental Price List**

Use this form, **for external clients**, to rent equipment and systems from Audio Visual.

GREEN SHEET CREATOR PROGRAM: http://intranet1/gscreator/default.asp

- **Green Sheet Creator Program Manual** ***COMING SOON***

We are currently in the process of developing a user manual. This manual will be helpful in explaining the various sections on the Green Sheet Creator Program as well as explaining the functions of the various buttons.

- **Head-Count Responsibility** ***COMING SOON***

A new section will be added to the Green Sheet Creator Program. This section will allow Event Coordinators to designate a person(s) to take a head count for various events. This designated person will have the responsibility of contacting Visitor Services with the number of guests who attend the event. This information will be used to track attendance.

Improvements to the Information Site and Creator Program would not be possible without the feedback from Green Sheet Coordinators and Green Sheet Receivers.

Thank you all for your cooperation with this program. Keep an eye out for further improvements.

Any questions, comments, concerns and/or suggestions should be directed to Jacqueline Benitez, Public Services extension 7911 or Rayfield Drake in Computing at extension 7951.

Let's all get in our pajamas and...

SLEEP WITH SUE!

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS...

THE 1ST ANNUAL FAMILY OVERNIGHT
FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2000
5:30PM to 8:00AM

Because this is our first overnight for staff, we need some planning help and ask that you fill in the following information below if you are interested in attending. These numbers will provide us better info on how to plan the night. We were also informed by expert overnight facilitators that children under the age of 5 are more likely to be scared, so please take this into consideration when determining who you will bring along. Please return the bottom part of this form to the HR office by Friday, August 18th.

Let's all get in our pajamas and...

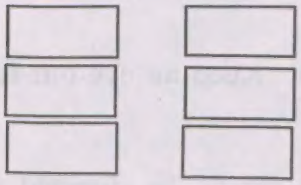
SLEEP WITH SUE!

Name: _____

Department: _____

Number of guests (including yourself): _____

Ages of Children:



The Field Museum & The Mexcian Fine Arts Center Museum Present

Voices From the Field Lecture Series:

An Evening with

Edward James Olmos

Actor, director, producer and humanitarian Edward James Olmos discusses community and cultural identity in conjunction with *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States*. An established actor for over 20 years, Olmos has costarred in such major films as *Blade Runner* and *American Me*, and won an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his portrayal of Lt. Castillo in *Miami Vice*. An Academy Award nomination for *Stand and Deliver* established Olmos as an actor respected by his peers and one known for selecting significant material. Olmos commits much of his time to humanitarian and community efforts and helped organize the *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States* book project supporting the Latino community and hailing the importance of education.

Friday

August 18, 2000

7:00 p.m.

$15 general, $10 members,
$12 students and educators

Upcoming lectures in the series

Stephen Jay Gould
Sept. 14; 6:30 p.m.

Award-winning actor, director and community activist.

One Night Only!!

Americanos:
Latino Life in the United States

August 19, 2000 – November 12, 2000 In a unique partnership, The Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum (MFACM) and The Field Museum present the exhibition, *Americanos: Latino Life in the United States*, a photographic celebration of Latino cultures in this country. The exhibition contains a total of 120 photos organized into six sections representing different aspects of Latino life. Panels with text by prominent Latinos including Carlos Fuentes, Celia Cruz, Julia Alvarez, and Sandy Alomar, introduce each section. The Field Museum features the sections depicting Family, Work, Sports, Culture and the Arts. MFACM showcases photos of Community and Spiritual Life. Free with admission.

The Field Museum CHICAGO

The Chicago presentation is sponsored by Target Stores and Marshall Field's Project Imagine.

TARGET

FIELD'S PROJECT IMAGINE
MARSHALL FIELD'S AND YOU SUPPORT THE ARTS

Americanos, a project of Olmos Productions, has been organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Smithsonian Center for Latino Initiatives. The exhibition has been made possible through the generous support of Time warner Inc. and US WEST. Additional support has been provided by Farmers Insurance. Americanos is being shown in Chicago through a collaboration between The Field Museum and the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum.

ME WARNER

USWEST

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service

The Field Museum salutes the people of Chicago for their long-standing, generous support of the Museum through the Chicago Park District. This project is partially supported by a CityArts Program 4 Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council, a State Agency.

El Field Museum & El Centro/Museo de Bellas Artes Mexicanas Presentan

Voces del Field Museum
Serie de Charlas:
Una Noche con

Edward James Olmos

Actor, director, productor y humanitario, Edward James Olmos, discute temas sobre la comunidad y la identidad cultural latina en relacion con la exhibición *Americanos: La Vida de los Latinos en los Estados Unidos*. Actor establecido por más de 20 años, Olmos ha co-protagonizado en las produciones de *Blade Runner* y *American Me* y ganó el premio Emmy y un Globo de Oro por su representación como el Lt. Castillo en *Miami Vice*. Olmos fue nominado por el Academy Awards por su actuación en *Stand and Deliver* la cual lo estableció como uno de los más respetados actores de la farándula y lo dio a conocer entre sus colegas gracias a su seleción de materiales significativos. Olmos dedica su tiempo a los esfuersos humanitarios de la comunidad. Olmos tambien ayudó a organizar el proyecto del libro *Americanos* para apoyar a la comunidad latina y para llamar la atención a la importancia de la educación.

Viernes
18 de agosto de 2000
7:00 p.m.
$15 general,$10 miembros,
$12 estudiantes y educadores

Futuras Presentaciones:
Stephen Jay Gould
14 de septiembre; 6:30 p.m.

The Chicago presentation is sponsored by Target Stores and Marshall Field's Project Imagine.

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TIME WARNER US WEST Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service

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Actor ganador de premios, director, productor y humanitario. ¡ Solamente una Noche!

Americanos: La vida de los latinos en los Estados Unidos

19 de agosto - 12 de septiembre, 2000 La exhibición *Americanos: La Vida de los Latinos en los Estados Unidos* es una celebración fotográfica de las culturas latinas en este pais y llega a nosotros gracias a una colaboración única entre el Centro/Museo de Bellas Artes Mexicanas y El Field Museum. Esta exhibición contiene un total de 120 fotográfias organizadas en seis secciones cada una representando los differentes aspectos de la vida latina. Dentro de la exhibición existen paneles informativos creados por prominentes personalidades latinas como Carlos Fuentes, Celia Cruz, Julia Alvarez y Sandy Alomar. El Field Museum presenta las seccions que depictan a la familia, el trabajo, los deportes, la cultura y las artes. El Centro/ Museo contribuye con las fotos sobre la communidad y la vida espiritual latina dentro de la exposición.